

love is what mattered,
he went on
and
furthermore

RED

he runs a bookstore
just off Hollywood Boulevard
and all that part of Hollywood
is just about skid row,
the young boy prostitutes
running the streets at night;
the hard young girls, the blacks,
the disoriented children from
ruined families, they are
frightened, mean, helpless and
dumb and
all that's left of that part of
town is
Musso's and Frederick's of
Hollywood.
but Red is there too,
wily old Brooklyn Red,
book collector, survivor.
Henry Miller once said to
him, "where'd you get all my
fucking books, Red?"

Red has the largest collection of
Chinaski books anywhere in town,
probably in the nation.

he's got them stacked up on his
desk in large piles
and he's got some specials under
glass
and then he takes me into the
back room
and there are cases and cases
of Chinaski
books.

"my god, Red, I hope you don't
get stuck!"

"I stock what I like"

Red knows the scene, he locks up
at 4 or 4:30 before the streets

become ugly but not real, just
inhuman and unjust.

he's home with Mina by

5.

maybe they'll eat

in,

maybe they'll go to

Canter's.

wise old Brooklyn Red,

he's seen more than

he'd care to talk

about.

and Paris is dead now

and so is Henry Miller

but down there on skid

row Hollywood

with only Musso's and

Frederick's left,

there's still a little

bit of the old

Paris

and a large touch of

class:

Red Stodolsky.

FREE DINNER

I was still the starving writer when I met this beautiful
lady who was young educated rich I really can't
remember how that all came about she had come to my
court a few times for brief visits "I don't want sex"
she told me "I want you to understand this" "o.k,"
I said "no sex"

one night she invited me to dinner on her she
arrived in her Porsche and we were off

the table was in front it was a fancy place I suppose
and there was a fellow with a violin and a fellow at the
piano

I ordered a wine and then we ordered dinner it was quiet
and I was hungry and thirsty it was a good red wine

it went quickly and I ordered another

"tell me about your writing" she said